

CLAIMS:

1. A solid mixed metal compound for use as a medicament, which mixed metal compound is obtainable by formation of 5 a precipitate thereof from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts, which mixed metal compound is free from aluminium and contains the metals iron (III) and at least one of magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium and has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by 10 weight of the total weight of the phosphate present, over a pH range of 2-8.

2. A solid mixed metal compound according to claim 1, having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by 15 weight of the total weight of phosphate present, over a pH range of from 3-7.

3. A solid mixed metal compound according to any preceding 20 claim, which contains at least one of hydroxyl and carbonate ions.

4. A solid mixed metal compound according to claim 3, which additionally contains at least one of sulphate, chloride and oxide.

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5. A solid mixed metal compound for use as a medicament, which mixed metal compound is a hydroxy carbonate containing each of iron (III) and magnesium, free from aluminium and having a phosphate binding capacity of at 30 least 30% by weight of the total weight of the phosphate present, over a pH range of 2-8.

6. Use, in a method of preparing a medicament for treatment of hyperphosphataemia, of a mixed metal compound according to any preceding claim.

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7. Use, in a method of preparing a medicament for treatment of hyperphosphataemia, of a metal sulphate material selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate compounds treated with an alkali solution.

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8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the alkali is sodium hydroxide.

15 9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the metal sulphate is treated with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution.

10. Use according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the metal sulphate compound is calcium sulphate.

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11. A metal sulphate material, for use as a medicament, selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate compounds treated with an aqueous solution of an alkaline hydroxide, which said material comprises a solid material.

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12. A metal sulphate material according to claim 11, which metal sulphate material has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by weight of the total weight of phosphate present, over a pH range of from 2-8.

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13. A method of preparing a metal sulphate material, which method comprises treating a metal sulphate comprising a solid material selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate with an alkali solution.

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14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the metal sulphate is ~~3~~ calcium sulphate.

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